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VanEe

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(54) **HUB AND BLADE ASSEMBLY FOR AN AGRICULTURAL COMBINE RESIDUE HANDLING SYSTEM**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A residue handling system for an agricultural combine including a residue chopper that provides enhanced air flow for evenly distributing crop materials onto a crop field. A hub and blade assembly accurately positions flail blades and resists fatigue stresses. Each flail blade includes an outer portion that is angled longitudinally away from a plane transverse to the axis of rotation. In a mated blade pair embodiment, the leading edges of the paired flail blades may be closer to each other than the trailing edges, or vice versa. Also, the leading edges of the flail blade pair may be the same distance away as the trailing edges of the pair, beneficially directing discharge sideways in a preferred common direction. The assembly includes a mounting support post that has a width substantially equal to the distance between two mated blades. The mated blades are installed directly against the sides of the mounting support, without spacer bushings, using only three connector elements.

10 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

